

A WOMAN WHO TRIED TO RUN A REPUBLIC

MRS. ELLA R. READER, THE WOMAN IN THE SANTO DOMINGO CASE.

FROM TYPEWRITER TO DIPLOMACY

Interesting Story Revealed by the Senate's Failure to Pass Treaty with President Morales—Agreed to Place Country on Sound Footing in Return for Important Concessions.

Washington.—Imagine a treaty between two republics, one of them your own, negotiated by a woman. Then imagine her after the successful conclusion of the pact, controlling the finances of the other party to the agreement, paying its debts and virtually running the country, and you have the goal for which one of the "gentler sex" was recently striving. One would almost as soon expect to see a woman seated in the president's cabinet as mixing in such international affairs.

Would Finance a Republic. Nevertheless had the plans of Mrs. Ella Rawls Reader successfully matured she would to-day be financing the republic of San Domingo and attempting to place the country on good terms with its neighbors; but when everything seemed to be progressing favorably her deal was rudely nipped by the failure of the United States senate to ratify the treaty which had been prepared.

It was just before the adjournment of the special session of the senate that Senator Morgan, of Alabama, made public some interesting information regarding the San Dominican treaty and which has served to show that Mrs. Reader, although practically unheard of before, is without doubt one of the most daring promoters of the day. She is a woman with a remarkably interesting history. Her husband is Athole B. Reader, formerly of New Zealand, Morocco and Ceylon, but now a citizen of the United States. He has ably assisted his shrewd wife in her undertakings.

Life of Mrs. Reader. Mrs. Reader is said to be 30 years old, but she looks younger. Her complexion is a wonder; her figure is girlish. She was born in Marion, Ala., of a family closely acquainted with Senator Morgan and other statesmen.

At 15 she married a man named Phillips, who was a clerk in a candy store in Birmingham, Ala. Their married life was unhappy and they separated. Phillips coming to Chicago, where he committed suicide in a hotel.

Thirteen years ago she went to New York to make a living as a stenog-

She went to London in 1899 and became connected with the firm of J. G. White & Co. She had not wasted her time in Wall street. The sultan of Johore came to London. He had up his sleeve the contract for the building of the Johore railroad, costing \$5,000,000. Miss Rawls met the sultan socially. J. G. White & Co. got the railroad contract.

The tuppenny tube had been built in London, but was troubled with vibration. There was a call for somebody who could cure this evil. Miss Rawls was associated with the Sprague Multiple Control company. She took a look at the vibrations, and in 1901 the Sprague company got the contract for stopping the shudders.

Her Second Husband.

Miss Rawls was still in the employ of J. G. White & Co. when, in 1901, she met and was won by Mr. Reader. His career had been quite as interesting as her own. He was born in New Zealand, a British subject. He is rather short, very dark, with black eyes and mustache. He could pass as a South American any time. He was private secretary to Sir Charles Ewan Smith, the British minister to Morocco, in 1892. In 1897 he became private secretary to Sir West Ridgeway, governor of Ceylon. Various circumstances caused him to become familiar with affairs in Peru, and while he was still interested he met Miss Rawls in London and married her. Together they have worked since then, and together they now stand. Mr. Reader has the deep mind, Mrs. Reader the quick wit.

They worked out a great scheme of mining improvement in Peru and interested the western copper millionaires, James B. Haggin. According to Mr. Reader, he and his wife were to have 10 per cent. commission for promoting this scheme and, according to the same story, the plans went through beautifully, except that the 10 per cent. was not paid.

The Peru financial arrangement is said to have stopped a threatened revolution in that country.

Dealings with San Domingo.

This is the early history of the Readers and brings them up to the

New York. There are always more than one, and they are called secret agents because, although representing the same government, they are nearly always unknown to each other. The reason of the existence of these secret agents need not be stated here, but they are considered necessary to the safety of every president of Santo Domingo.

"The gentleman in question was a friend of ours. At this time we were engaged in exploiting mining property which we owned in Peru. Mrs. Reader, at that time, had been invited by the president of Peru to act as his agent in this country, and the papers appointing her fiscal agent were being prepared by William Nelson Cromwell. She was about to go to Peru with

and to the authorities at Washington, and that Mr. Cromwell and Mrs. Reader should then proceed to Washington and commence negotiations while awaiting the arrival of the papers and my return from Santo Domingo. It was understood with Mr. Cromwell that at Mrs. Reader's request Gen. Morales should appoint him her legal adviser as the fiscal agent of the Dominican government and himself be the counsel for the government of that republic.

Morales Willing to Negotiate. "Mr. Perez and I arrived at Santo Domingo on December 30, 1904, and were met on board of the boat by Gen. Morales, who gave us a hearty welcome. It was not long before I had a private talk with the president,



these papers when she was requested by Perez, as he claimed, with the consent of Gen. Morales, to try and have me interest myself in the affairs of Santo Domingo. He stated to me that he had heard of the success of Mrs. Reader in reconciling both sides of a revolutionary outbreak in Peru and practically establishing a government there without a civil war. We could not at that time take up the Santo Domingo suggestions, owing to our Peruvian engagements, but, Perez and Gen. Morales continuing their invitations and stating that they desired us to represent them in this country as intermediaries with the United States, we finally consented to do so.

"Upon the suggestion of Mr. Perez the papers for that purpose were prepared, and at the invitation of Gen. Morales I prepared to proceed with Mr. Perez to Santo Domingo to have the papers executed, acquaint myself with the conditions, and receive his instructions.

Says Cromwell Knew of Deal.

"The papers were submitted by us to Mr. Cromwell for his approval, and it became necessary to explain the conditions to him under which we were led to consider these agreements. All the things which are set out in this statement were made known to Mr. Cromwell and talked over at length with him, and he advised us that he considered it was a favorable enterprise, that these papers would place a great deal of power in our hands and that he had no doubt that the concessions which they were promised by the Dominican government in return for our services would be of great value and could be readily exploited with capital that could easily be procured in this country, and that our official status and our friends in this country would enable us to deal without any difficulty with the heads of the United States government.

"Mr. Cromwell also promised that on my return with these papers properly executed he would take me to Washington and introduce me to Mr. Hay; he explained to me, especially with respect to the desire of the United States to procure the bay of Samana as a coaling station, what authorizations and instructions I should especially see that I got from the Dominican government so as to enable him with full and complete credentials to negotiate with the United States government for the sale of that bay to it.

"With these papers I left New York, accompanied by Mr. Perez, on December 21, 1904. These papers provided for Mrs. Reader to be the fiscal agent of the Dominican government in the United States, and authorized and empowered her to negotiate with the United States government for the sale of the bay of Samana and for all differences between the Dominican government and the United States and other foreign governments, with full power of attorney to represent the Dominican government.

"It was arranged with Mr. Cromwell that as soon as these papers were signed by President Morales the signatures should be verified by the United States minister at Santo Domingo, and that as Mrs. Reader would then be the authorized fiscal agent of the Dominican government in the United States they should be cabled to her

thanked him for his invitation to come to Santo Domingo, sent through Perez, explained the reasons why Mrs. Reader could not accompany me, and told him we were not only assured of an immediate hearing at Washington, but of the strongest financial backing in the United States to deal with the concessions which he proposed to give.

"I was presented to Mr. Prichard, his minister of public works, and to Mr. Sanchez, his minister of foreign affairs. I had an extended conversation on the matter in hand with Mr. Sanchez, and the president invited me to visit him again in a day or two.

"On New Year's eve I attended the ball given at the Union club. President Morales was at the ball, and so was United States Minister Dawson. The next day, Sunday, I spent in preparing with greater perfection of detail the documents. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I had interviews with the president at his house, and with his foreign minister at the palace, and we discussed everything. The foreign minister and I were instructed to draw up the necessary papers for signature by the president and his various secretaries of state, and it was arranged also to obtain the signatures of the president and secretary of congress.

"These matters occupied a week, and on January 6 I cabled to Mrs. Reader in New York: 'Expect to obtain everything in about a week.' Deal Is Called Off.

"On that very day Mr. Perez learned that the president had received a communication from United States Minister Dawson, and had in consequence paid him a visit, but what the nature of the interview was I did not learn. On Monday, January 9, when I called at the place, Mr. Sanchez informed me that they had a communication from Mr. Dawson not to proceed with my negotiations, but to deal direct with Washington.

"I asked him if this was not very sudden and unexpected, and he seemed confused and anxious to avoid giving offense.

"I saw the president and asked him why he had proceeded so far with me, had accepted everything, and had gone so far as to make out the telegram appointing Mrs. Reader as his fiscal agent and representative in Washington, if he had not intended to complete his arrangements.

"President Morales also seemed confused and unable to give a satisfactory answer."

As to the cause of the sudden discontinuance of the negotiations and the rejection of the treaty by the United States senate, several explanations have been given. Mr. Cromwell declares that he is not and has never been interested in any San Dominican affairs.

It is the verdict of a great many of the most prominent newspapers that the Readers would have made an utter failure of their undertaking, but they have never been able to convince the two daring promoters of that. Mr. Reader declares: "We would have put Santo Domingo on a new financial footing. The country would have no more trouble with foreign countries. Its debts would have been attended to and we would have arranged a treaty with the United States."

WASHINGTON LETTER

DATE OF INAUGURATION CEREMONIES SHOULD BE CHANGED.

EARLY MARCH INCLEMENT

Deaths Traced to Exposure on Day President Is Installed—Pension Office No Place for Inaugural Ball—Other Gossip.

WASHINGTON.—The death of the late Senator Bate, of Tennessee, is attributed to the rigors of inauguration day. While that day was bright and sunny, there was a cold north-west wind blowing that was penetrating and chilled one to the bone. Always scrupulous in

observing the details of a public ceremony, Senator Bate accompanied the senate to the east front of the capitol and sat through the administering of the oath and the speech of the president. As he walked back to the senate chamber he complained to a fellow senator of feeling chilly and experiencing a sharp pain in his chest. Four days afterwards he was dead, a victim, as many believe, of inauguration-day weather.

This incident has renewed the movement to change the date of inauguration. Two years ago the late Senator Hoar, chairman of the judiciary committee, drew a resolution, submitting to the states an amendment to the constitution to make inauguration day the last Thursday in April. The senate passed the resolution unanimously, but the house committee on judiciary got into a squabble over it and the house never got a chance to vote on it. The commissioners of the District of Columbia appointed a national committee in 1902 to carry on a propaganda in favor of this change of date. Besides a number of distinguished men in Washington, the governors from the 45 states and four territories were appointed as members of this national committee.

Commissioner MacFarland has just issued a call for a meeting of this committee in order to perfect an organization and plan a campaign in favor of fixing a date for the inauguration when pneumonia and other ills of cold weather are not likely to be encountered. There is scarcely an inauguration that does not result in a number of deaths due directly to exposure. Members of marching clubs and citizens not accustomed to being out in inclement weather take great risk on these occasions.

A Convention Hall.

IT IS believed that the last inaugural ball has been held in the Pension Office building. It was with great reluctance that congress gave its permission for the last ball to be held there. The arguments against the use of the building for that purpose are numerous and strong. One of the principal reasons is the disarrangement it causes in the pension office work, as hundreds of clerks are laid off for a week or ten days during the inauguration season. Another potent reason is the danger of fire, which would not only threaten a horrible disaster in the loss of life, but would destroy records that could never be replaced.

In accord with a promise that was given, the inaugural committee has taken initial steps toward the erection in Washington of a large auditorium for the holding of future inaugural balls, conventions and other large gatherings. It is the purpose to solicit subscriptions from business men, and probably to ask a contribution from congress towards the erection of a suitable building. The first move in that direction was taken when congress authorized the acceptance by the district government of the structural steel and other durable portions of the government exhibit building at St. Louis. The steel used in the construction of this building is estimated to be worth about \$100,000, and it will cost probably \$20,000 to bring it to Washington.

The government building at the St. Louis fair is 752 feet long and 175 feet wide. It is proposed to construct the new convention hall in Washington out of the material used in this building and to provide a structure about 500 feet long and 175 feet wide. It is calculated that if a building of this kind were provided national conventions could be attracted to Washington and national meetings of big trade organizations would be held here. As a business enterprise the hall is considered very attractive.

Senators Over-Fearful About Disease.

HERE is no body of men more sensitive about their health or more prone to believe rumors about the health of their colleagues than the United States senate. Every once in awhile the senate spends a lot of money in having the air of the senate chamber tested to discover whether it is healthful or harmful. The reports of experts who conduct these investi-

gations are read with the deepest interest and the senators shiver as they think of the millions of microbes that are swarming in the carpets and through the atmosphere of the chamber. There are more hypochondriacs among the senators than can be found in the same number of people elsewhere. A slight cold is sufficient to keep the average senator at his house or hotel, and the weather map in the marble room is consulted almost hourly for possible changes in the temperature.

The senators are almost amusingly credulous of any reports that may be circulated about the physical condition of one of their number. An illustration of this has just been furnished. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, was attacked by the grip about the middle of January, and, after fighting the disease for a few days, obeyed his physician's orders and went to bed. He had a regular siege of this troublesome malady, and then, just before congress adjourned, went to Florida to regain his strength. Immediately stories were circulated that Mr. Knox was in the grip of a fatal disease, and that he was not likely to again take his seat in the senate. Senators shook their heads and expressed deep sympathy to each other with the Pennsylvania senator. They did not hesitate to accept the report as true, and repeated it so that it was generally believed. Mr. Knox in the meantime was down in Florida gaining strength every day and putting in hours on the golf links and acquiring a coat of tan that would do credit to a farmer. He was much amused when he received messages of sympathy and wired his friends not to be alarmed, as he was eating three big meals a day and was ready to tackle any of his colleagues at golf.

Party of Elderly Solons on Long Trip.

F Dr. Osler's theory that men should be chloroformed after passing the age of 60 were put into effect, it would interfere very seriously with a party of statesmen about to make a trip around the world. Secretary of War Taft is going to the Philippines next July to see how matters stand over there and what progress has been made under the policies he initiated when governor general, and he has invited a party of congressmen to go with him. Among the youngsters in this party are Gen. Grosvenor, a young man of 72; Sen. Payne, a boy of 62; and that spry young lad, Speaker Joseph G. Cannon, who is 69. All these men would have been put to sleep long ago if Dr. Osler's theory is correct and Secretary Taft would be deprived of their company.

This proposed trip is not to be the ordinary congressional junket. The expenses will be paid out of the Philippine treasury, and they will be regarded as an excellent investment. Mr. Taft is anxious that the big men in congress who direct legislation should obtain knowledge at first hand of conditions in the Philippines, and what reforms and what legislation are needed there. Speaker Cannon and several of his colleagues in the house have accepted the secretary's invitation, and they expect to learn much of value to themselves and to the country. While it will be in the nature of a rest, they intend to work hard while in the Philippines in gaining the knowledge and information that will be of use to them in making laws for those far-off possessions. The party will proceed to the Philippines by way of the Pacific and will probably return by way of the Indian ocean, the Suez canal and through Europe to the Atlantic and home.

Once Despised Vermiform Appendix.

MEDICAL and scientific bodies have been stirred up by a discovery that suggests a use for the much despised appendix of the human body. Two or three operations that have recently been performed by army surgeons here in Washington have served to excite interest in this discovery, but the process has been in use in the army for two or three years. It is claimed that a new cure for tropical dysentery or Philippine fever has been discovered by using the vermiform appendix as a channel through which medicine can be introduced into the bowels without passing through the stomach.

One of the operations was performed on a sergeant in the engineer corps who was at the point of death from an aggravated attack of Philippine dysentery or acute malarial fever, of more than a year's standing. Under the direction of the surgeon in charge at the barracks here the sufferer's appendix was reached by an incision through the walls of the abdomen. It was drawn through the opening of the body and allowed to heal outside of the abdominal wall. Using the appendix as though it had been a funnel, the surgeon poured in a quinine solution. The medicine reached the vital organs affected without passing through the stomach.

The perforations in the bowels caused by the disease were quickly healed. As the stomach was not affected by the medicine, the patient could take nourishment without discomfort, and, after a few days' treatment, was convalescent, and is now on the road to full health. If this process becomes general the custom of cutting out the vermiform appendix on the slightest provocation will probably be discontinued and that little member of the body will be brought to the outside and held there as a handy channel for the administering of medicine to the bowels.



rapher. Within three years she was the head and sole manager of the largest typewriting establishment in New York, with 40 girls working for her. Her offices were besieged by men who had important work to be done accurately. From an expert operator she became a superintendent of operators. In 1896, according to her story, she was sought by Senator Scott and Congressman Manley, then bossing the McKinley campaign, to take charge of certain private correspondence.

After that, work piled in from Wall street. Several important assignments came to her (she was then Miss Ella Rawls) from the city. For reporting the work of the Venezuelan boundary commission she was endorsed, she says, by the late William L. Strong, J. Kennedy Tod, and others. Everything was prosperous for the young woman who had come from the south with nothing but ambition.